

S E C R E T

31 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Participation in "Operation Alert 1956"

1. FDD's mission in this Operation was to provide translation service of any foreign-language documents and information derived from the exploitation of foreign-language publications.

2. All phases of the Operation worked satisfactorily from the FDD standpoint.

3. Specific comments

a. Problem play

(1) Simulated problems

(a) An inquiry to ACSI/DA on activation of ASDIC was dispatched by FDD at 1545, 21 July. Reply received 0755, 25 July that ASDIC is to be activated 15 August 1956 [redacted] and CIA elements are to report on 20 August 1956. Wire to ASDIC acknowledged FDD's readiness and asked time and place of first meeting of Assistant Directors, ASDIC (0908, 25 July).

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(b) Upon query by OTR regarding request [redacted] for instruction material [redacted] FDD informed OTR it could assist in translating English into foreign languages if problem was returned to Headquarters (1545, 23 July).

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(c) At 0930, 24 July, FDD queried OCR on status of PPOs and foreign document procurement channels. Received reply from OCR on availability of foreign publications procurement in [redacted] only at 0845, 25 July.

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(d) Queried Director of Personnel at 0930, 24 July, on registration of FDD personnel at emergency registration centers. Reply from Director of Personnel on survivors suggested an availability of [redacted] (0750, 25 July).

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(f) Request received from OSI at 1110, 24 July, for a translation of a Russian article on psychiatry from the "Great Soviet Encyclopedia." Completed and forwarded to OSI at 1415, 24 July (SI-5-56).

(g) Verbal consultation at 0830, 25 July, satisfied translation request from "Great Soviet Encyclopedia" on Volga Dam for ORR.

(h) Request from OSI at 1410, 24 July, for a 9-page Russian translation on Soviet higher education(microfilm). Prints obtained 1550. Completed and forwarded to OSI 0945, 25 July (SI-9-56).

(i) Queried OTR at 1145, 25 July, on capabilities for immediate language training. OTRs answer on foreign language training estimates was received at 1300, 25 July.

(2) Intelligence support

No comment.

b. Logistic support

(1) Billeting facilities were entirely satisfactory.

(2) Messing facilities were entirely satisfactory.

(3) Printing and reproduction service requested by FDD was handled efficiently.

(4) Office supplies and equipment were adequate. Local availability of microfilm readers would be helpful and could conceivably reduce reproduction service requirements.

(5) Communication service was satisfactory.

(6) Office space assigned was satisfactory and well lighted. However, it is understood that FDD was not in its regularly assigned space.

(7) Transport - not used.

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c. Vital Materials Register

(1) Access and service was excellent. Necessary reference books were available for immediate use in the office area.

(2) Although FDD material in the Center was deemed adequate, some non-essential material and certain individual documents that have been superseded by later issues were noted. The addition of certain specific reference books and serial publications as well as augmentation of the FDD unscheduled reports deposited as vital materials would be of value.

d. Personnel

The Division had a total of [] in its advance force, consisting of [] The administrative assistant acted in that capacity for all of the Office of Operations. The [] were all senior people with broad backgrounds. All areas were covered as well as all major languages. All members were versatile and the contingent was considered satisfactory to work under emergency conditions on a 24-hour basis.

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e. External support

No comment.

4. Deficiencies

a. Problem play

Requests for translation service in support of intelligence production did not, in each case, define the type of information desired.

b. Logistic support

Microfilm readers were not readily available.

c. Vital Materials Register

Non-essential and outdated materials were included. Certain reference books and FDD unscheduled reports were omitted. Some important serial publications that should be held by OCR Library were missing.

d. Personnel

None noted.

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5. Recommendations

a. Problem play

Requests for translation service should, whenever possible, define the type of information desired.

b. Logistic support

Microfilm readers should be available in assigned office spaces.

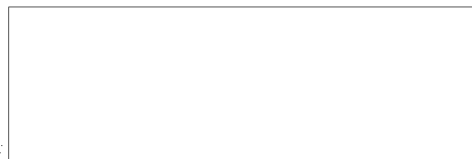
c. Vital Materials Register

The list of vital materials for FDD should be revised and multiple copies of certain reference books (dictionaries) should be included.

The holding of foreign-language reference books and serial publications maintained by OCR Library should be revised.

d. Personnel

None.



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J. J. BAGNALL
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